

FY2014 (7/1/13 – 6/30/14) Annual Work Plan Kittitas County Conservation District



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Mission of the Kittitas County Conservation District

 Provide leadership, technical, educational and financial assistance to landowners and land users in their utilization and management of natural resources.

Natural Resource Priorities

Water Quantity

Efficient use of irrigation water is a high priority in Kittitas County. There are 90,000 acres of irrigated cropland that depend on irrigation water diverted from streams and rivers and stored in reservoirs. The Kittitas Reclamation District, including 59,000 acres, is a junior water right holder and is prorated during water short years. In addition, low instream flows impact fish species and riparian habitat. Water use efficiency is a high priority locally, and has been the focus of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for a number of years. Through the NRCS State Resource Assessment 2011- Priority Resource Concerns, "Insufficient Water - Inefficient use of irrigation water", is ranked as the number 5 priority statewide and was the number one priority in the Central area. The Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan was developed by US Bureau of Reclamation and the Washington State Department of Ecology in conjunction with the Yakama Nation and Yakima River basin stakeholders. The plan states several outcomes including "Improved water supply reliability for three irrigation divisions that rely heavily on "proratable" water rights, primarily for agricultural irrigation."

Water Quality

More than 700 miles of streams and rivers flow through forestland, rangeland, irrigated agricultural lands and urban lands in Kittitas County. Water quality is important in these waterways to ensure public health, provide irrigation water, and for salmonids and resident fish species as well as upland wildlife species. Water quality degradation is identified as a high priority in the NRCS State Resource Assessment 2011: Priority Resource Concerns. The priority describes both sediment and nutrients in ground water and surface water in crop, forest and other associated agricultural lands. In Kittitas County, the water quality degradation-"excessive sediment" priority involves 63,500 acres and the "excessive nutrients" involves 15,000 acres, within that 63,500 acres. In addition, the Department of Ecology is responsible for several Water Cleanup Plans (TMDLs) addressing chlorine, ammonia-N, BOD (5-day), fecal coliform, temperature; organochlorine pesticides, suspended sediments, and turbidity. The Kittitas County Water Purveyors, Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group, Kittitas Conservation Trust, and the Yakama Nation are working to address water quality as well.

Fish & Wildlife

o Fish and wildlife concerns in Kittitas County primarily include salmonids species, birds, and mammals. Species that are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or listed by Washington State as threatened or endangered or species of concern are resource issues. This includes Mid-Columbia Summer Steelhead, Yakima River Bull Trout, and Greater Sage Grouse, all of which are listed as threatened species under ESA and by the State. The Gray wolf which is listed as endangered under ESA and by the State. NRCS State Resource Assessment 2011- Priority Resource Concerns states that "Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife" is a priority resource concern in the state, including Kittitas County. The 2009 Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan was written locally and was formally incorporated into NOAA's Middle Columbia River Steelhead Recovery Plan

(2009). The Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan, September 2012, is intended to complement and support the pending US Fish & Wildlife Service bull trout recovery plan by providing detailed population information and proposing actions to benefit bull trout in the Yakima basin. Other entities working to address fish recovery goals include the Yakama Nation, Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group, the Kittitas Conservation Trust and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources and Puget Sound Energy are the primary landowners in Wild Horse area where Sage Grouse are a resource concern. The South Central Washington Shrub Steppe/Rangeland Partnership is also focusing on Sage Grouse habitat.

Soil Quality & Health

Soil quality and health impacts agricultural production, particularly in the 90,000 acres of irrigated crop and pastureland in Kittitas County. Soil quality, including nutrients and the prevention of soil erosion are important resource concerns. The NRCS State Resource Assessment 2011: Priority Resource Concerns identified soil erosion ("sheet, rill and wind erosion") as the number one resource concern in the state and the Central area ranked it as the number 2 priority resource concern. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and WSU Extension Kittitas County are also working on soil erosion and nutrient concerns.

Forest Health

Approximately half of Kittitas County is forested. Timber companies and private landowners manage about 200,000 acres of forestland. The US Forest Service's Wenatchee National Forest includes about 375,000 acres; and the Washington Department of Natural Resources manages another 48,000 acres of forestland. Fuel loads, insect damage and development into the wildland urban interface in combination with topography and the weather patterns have created substantial resource concerns as documented in the Kittitas County Wildfire Protection Plan (2009). Approximately 75,000 acres of high to extreme fire hazard areas are identified on private lands in that plan. In addition, the NRCS State Resource Assessment 2011: Priority Resource Concerns identified "undesirable plant productivity and health", "degraded habitat condition", "excessive plant pest pressure", and "wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation" on forestland as priority resource concerns. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, local fire districts and Kittitas County are working on these issues as well.

Range Health

Nearly 500,000 acres in Kittitas County are shrub-steppe rangeland. The Yakima Training Center manages 164,000 acres, Washington Department of Natural Resources manages another 78,000 acres and the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife manages 170,000 in the Clockum, L.T. Murray and Wenas Wildlife areas. Livestock grazing occurs on private and state owned range areas. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife also manages significant elk and deer herds in their wildlife areas. These herds can impact adjacent irrigated agricultural operations. Weed control is a significant resource concern as well. In addition, the NRCS State Resource Assessment 2011: Priority Resource Concerns identified "undesirable plant productivity and health", "degraded habitat condition", and "excessive plant pest pressure" on rangeland as priority resource concerns. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, WSU Extension Kittitas County, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board, and the Big Game Management Roundtable are also working on these issues.



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Program Areas:

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Water Quantity

Goal(s): Improve water use efficiency through conservation measures and storage opportunities to meet needs of water users and work with partners, to achieve base flows in high priority streams by 2020

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: 500 acres treated with efficient irrigation systems and 4 cubic feet per second entered into the Trust Water Rights Program

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 40 landowners will be contacted resulting in 12 conservation plans.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission, Department of Ecology, Bonneville Power Administration, KCCD Special Assessment funds.

Activities for FY2014	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Improve delivery and application of irrigation to and on small acreages using on approximately 25 acres.	July 2013 to June 2014	CP, PE, DM	54	\$42,262	
Develop four (4) Irrigation Efficiencies Program projects in Cherry Creek tributaries and Manastash Creek on 320 acres.	July 2013 to June 2014	CP, PM, DM	70	\$1,301,282	
Develop two (2) sprinkler conversion projects on 160 acres (part of 3,000 acres in potential projects listed in CPDS)	July 2013 to June 2014	CP, DM	35	\$970,898	
Manastash Creek Restoration Project- convert 6,000 feet of delivery ditch to pipeline, all resulting in1.9 CFS in Trust Water Rights.	July 2013 to June 2014	PM, DM, RT, PE	123	\$1,369,377	
Manastash Creek Restoration Project- Monitor stream flow and ditch flow as part of the Implementation Plan	July 2013 to June 2014	PM, RT	90	\$25,169	
Work with Trout-Unlimited Washington Water Project to acquire additional water rights for instream flow in Manastash Creek	July 2013 to June 2014	PM, DM	24	\$8,434	
Continue promotion of the Save Water Save Energy Program to improve water use efficiencies.	July 2013 to Sept 2013	DM, CP	3.25	\$1,046	Work with RC&D

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Water Quality

Goal(s): Meet the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals in Kittitas County

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Plant 10 acres of riparian/floodplain habitat Swauk Creek and Yakima River Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 2 landowners contacted resulting in 2 plans, 1 municipality contacted resulting in 1 report

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission, Ecology, Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group, KCCD Special Assessment funds

Activities for FY2014	Target	Person	Time(Days)	Estimated	Notes
	Dates	Responsible	Required	Funding	
Complete modeling for City of Cle Elum storm water infrastructure	July 2013 to June 2014	DM, GS	25	\$8,841	
Complete 8 acre riparian and floodplain planting project on Swauk Creek	July 2013 to December 2013	DM, FM, RT, Consultant	5.5	\$31,845	Coordinated with Nature Conservancy
Complete riparian planting project associated with Yakima River Side Channel Flood Fence Project	October 2013 to June 2014	DM, PE, RT	14.5	\$6,745	•
Jack Creek Floodplain Restoration Project- Lower Jack Creek riparian area and instream improvements.	July 2012 to June 2013	DM, FM, Consultant	1.5	\$90,571	Project lead: Mid-Columbia RFEG
Coordinate with the groups/agencies currently monitoring water quality- Meet with Kittitas County Water Purveyors and Ecology to coordinate activities as needed.	July 2013 to June 2014	DM	3	\$1,323	
Continue to cooperate with the South Central RC&D to investigate Ecosystem Services Market opportunities	Sept 2013 to June 2014	GS	4	\$1,289	

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Fish & Wildlife

Goal(s): By 2020, complete installation of approved fish screen and fish passage facilities for the identified high priority areas. By 2025, complete installation of approved fish screen and fish passage facilities for the identified medium priority areas **Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** 5 fish passage barriers removed, 5 irrigation diversions screened (two screened through the implementation of 3,000' of pipe)

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 12 meetings of the YTAHP Core Team, 2 meetings of the Manastash Creek Steering Committee, one Easement Monitoring Report

Funding Source(s): Bonneville Power Administration, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Department of Ecology, Washington State Conservation Commission

Activities for FY2014	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
YTAHP - Continue to participate in the Core Team and develop projects and securing funding.	July 2013 to June 2014	DM, PE, CP, RT	48	\$17,965	
YTAHP - Continue to seek funding for the Coleman Creek- Ellensburg Water Company Project including a siphon for the intersection, a fish screen and ladder for the irrigation diversion	July 2013 to June 2014	DM, PE, CP	25	\$13,062	
YTAHP - Remove 4 fish passage barriers on Parke Creek allowing access to 0.8 miles of habitat	July 2013 to January 2014	PE, RT, DM	32	\$146,991	

YTAHP - Install a fish screen & remove fish passage barrier (Caribou Creek)	July 2013 to March 2014	CP, PE, DM, RT	37	\$15,885	
YTAHP - Improve fish passage and pump station operation at the Red Bridge pump stations on the Teanaway River by constructing or repairing in stream structures	July 2013 to October 2013	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	82	\$266,188	
YTAHP - Complete construction of project on 3M Ditch in the Teanaway to convert the ditch to alternate water sources, install sprinklers and pipelines and decommission ditch	July 2013 to February 2014	CP, DM	19	\$131,425	
YTAHP - Conduct stream assessments on approximately 40 miles of streams within the Wilson/Naneum/Cherry watershed to update current conditions, barriers and unscreened diversions	July 2013 to June 2014	DM, CP, RT	45	\$15,334	Cooperative effort with KC Flood Control Zone District
YTAHP - Wilson/Nanuem/Cherry Creek - monitor instream flows for project data collection	July 2013 to June 2014	RT, CP	51	\$12,465	
YTAHP - Maintain riparian planting areas associated with current and past fish screen and passage projects	July 2013 to June 2014	RT, WCC Crews	151	\$32,215	
Facilitate Manastash Creek Steering Committee Meetings and Technical Subcommittee Meetings	July 2013 to June 2014	PM, DM, PE	10	\$3,873	
Manastash Creek Restoration Project-Construct Consolidated Pipeline in order to decommission two unscreened diversions (1 mile of the pipe will be constructed separately by USBR	July 2013 to June 2014	PM, DM, PE, RT, Consultants	283	\$1,062,540	Cooperative effort with USBR & KRD
Install PIT tag detectors in Manastash Creek in cooperation with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife	July 2013 to June 2014	PM	5	\$1,334	
Design a project to decommission Reed Diversion (Manastash Creek)	Sept 2013 to June 2014	PM, DM, Consultants	144	\$77,434	
Monitor Wild Horse Wind Facility Conservation Easement	Sept 2013 to April 2014	GS, DM, FM	23	\$7,959	Contracted by PSE

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Soil Quality & Health

Goal(s): Maintain soil productivity and health to meet or exceed NRCS soil quality criteria

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Irrigation induced soil erosion reduced by 6,000-8,000 tons on 2,000 acres **Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** 40 landowners will be contacted/worked with resulting in 18 cost share applications written and implemented.

Funding Source(s): Kittitas County Road Fund, Washington State Conservation Commission and KCCD Special Assessment

Activities for FY2014	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Reduce Irrigation Induced Soil Erosion - Continue to offer the PAM Cost Share program to growers	July 2013 to June 2014	RT, FM	11.5	\$6,755	Also has water quality impacts
Conduct a seminar on no-till practices - Partner with NRCS to secure expertise and conduct the seminar	October 2013 to April 2014	DM, CP	1	\$377	·

Offer agronomy expertise to local growers- Coordinate with NRCS for direct and individual communication between NRCS agronomist and growers interested in soil quality & health	July 2013 to June 2014	DM, CP	1	\$377	
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Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Forest Health

Goal(s): By 2020, treat 2,500 acres of forestland to improve forest health and reduce wildland fire risks in Kittitas County

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Fuels reduction will occur on 150 acres in high risk areas of Kittitas County

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 20 Landowners/land managers will be assisted individually, and 6 communities will be assisted resulting in homesite or community assessments and plans.

Funding Source(s): KCCD Special Assessment funds, Department of Natural Resources (state and federal grants)

Activities for FY2014	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Seek out funding sources for FIREWISE® activities with private landowners.	July 2013- June 2014	GS, DM	7	\$2,564	
Complete home site or communities assessments	July 2013- June 2014	GS	25	\$13,452	Cooperative effort with WDNR
Provide financial and technical assistance to landowners on 200 acres of forestland to implement fuels reduction and forest health practices.	July 2013 to December 2014	GS, DM, Consultant	66	\$207,168	Cooperative effort with KCFD #7
Assist 6 communities to maintain FIREWISE ® USA community status; and assist 2 new communities to achieve FIREWISE ® USA status.	July 2013- June 2014	GS	20	\$6,726	

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Range Health

Goal(s): By 2020, document positive trend (health) on rangeland in Kittitas County

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Assistance will be provided to 4-6 landowners resulting in 1 plan **Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** Landowners/land managers will assisted during 2-4 meetings of the Wild Horse CRM or Big Game Management Roundtable

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission, KCCD Special Assessment Funds

Activities for FY2014	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Facilitate meetings of the Big Game Management Roundtable and maintain communication between meeting as needed	July 2013 to June 2014	CP	4	\$1,248	
Participate in the Wild Horse CRM including attending meetings and assisting with monitoring activities.	July 2013 to June 2014	DM, CP	4.5	\$1,469	

Support and coordinate with NRCS and WSU Extension's efforts to	July 2013 to	DM, CP	15	\$1.46Q	
provide technical and financial assistance to rangeland operators.	June 2014	DIVI, CF	4.5	φ1,409	

District Program Area: Development and Natural Resource Impacts

Goal(s): Develop a strategy and an information campaign to address land use fragmentation & small parcel impact on natural resources.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 60 landowners contacted through 7 workshops **Funding Source(s):** Washington State Conservation Commission. KCCD Special Assessment funds

Activities for FY2014	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Small Acreage Management Program- Continue the program offering education (workshops) and technical assistance to small acreage landowners in cooperation with WSU Extension and NRCS.	July 2013 to June 2014	DM, CP	10.5	\$3,341	
Promote Conservation Easement Programs- Coordinate with agencies and land conservancy organizations to promote conservation easement programs.	October 2013 to April 2014	DM, GS	1	\$389	
Provide Technical Assistance to Kittitas County - Offer technical assistance to Kittitas County by assigning staff to participate in updates to Shoreline Management Plan and Critical Areas Ordinance, to coordinate with Flood Control Zone District, to participate in the Voluntary Stewardship Program, and other activities as needed.	July 2013 to June 2014	RT, FM	16	\$6,953	

District Program Area: Education/Outreach

Goal(s): Provide information/education opportunities to all ages and backgrounds in order to increase their knowledge and understanding of natural resources in Kittitas County using venues such as newsletters, a website, workshops, public events and landowner site visits.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 13,000+ Landowners contacted and provided information resulting in 20-30 individual program referrals, two public meeting for landowners, and 7 workshops

Funding Source(s): KCCD Special Assessment, Washington State Conservation Commission, Roy & Marge Bach Memorial Conservation Plant Sale

Activities for FY2014	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Conduct Roy & Marge Bach Memorial Plant Sale (4,000 seedlings to 100 customers)	Jan 2013 to April 2013	FM, Volunteers	16.0	\$8,519	
Complete tri-annual newsletters with circulation of 13,000	July 2013 to June 2014	GS, DM FM	21.0	\$23,572	
Manage and maintain website for public outreach and information	July 2013 to	GS, DM FM	27.0	\$9,304	

about KCCD projects and programs	June 2014				
Agriculture Appreciation Day at Kittitas County Event Center (~300 3rd Grade Students)	March 2014	RT	1.8	\$460	
Kittitas County Hay Growers – Presentation of Activities	Feb 2014	DM	1.5	\$662	
Kittitas County Fair- Community Education Booth to reach 60,000 attendees	Sept 2013	DM, GS, FM	6.0	\$2,016	

District Program Area: District Operations

Goal(s): Complete operations in a time and funding efficient manner consistent with Washington State Conservation Commission guidelines.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 12-16 Board meetings conducted, positive results for Good Governance checklist, and successful completion of financial reports and audits; multiple landowners contacted in 5 conservation districts to assist engineering/design.

Funding Source(s): All grants indirect charges, KCCD Special Assessment, Washington State Conservation Commission

Activities for FY2014	Target	Person	Time(Days)	Estimated	Notes
	Dates	Responsible	Required	Funding	
Complete Supervisor elections and appointments, and recruit one new Associate Supervisor.	Dec 2013 to March 2014	FM, DM, Board of Supervisors	11.0	\$3,257	
Complete 12 monthly meetings and 4 special meetings of the Board of Supervisors and offer 2 training opportunities to Supervisors and Staff.	July 2013 to June 2014	DM, FM, Board of Supervisors	89.0	\$27,511	
Complete A-133 Audit (Single Federal Audit) with SAO	July 2013 to Sept 2014	DM, FM, Board of Supervisors	13.0	\$9,849	
Complete internal audit, Annual Financial Report, Annual Plan of Work, and Annual Report of Accomplishments.	August 2013 to May 2014	DM, FM, Board of Supervisors	24.0	\$11,768	
Complete monthly vouchers for 25 different grants, monitor budgets, complete status reports and complete monthly payroll functions.	July 2013 to June 2014	FM, DM, Board of Supervisors	133.0	\$47,249	
Review existing KCCD policies (Purchasing & Contracting, Personnel, Cost Share) and continue to develop KCCD Operations Manual.	July 2013 to June 2014	DM, FM, Board of Supervisors	7.5	\$2,724	
Complete employee evaluations and review of salaries/wages	March 2013 to May 2014	DM, Board of Supervisors	6.3	\$2,025	
Work with Kittitas Board of County Commissioners on Rural Service Center funding and cooperative efforts.	July 2013 to June 2014	DM, GS, Board of Supervisors	11.0	\$3,551	
Meet with the Kittitas Board of County Commissioners to discuss on- going programs, projects and funding.	March 2014	DM, Board of Supervisors	4.5	\$1,401	
Provide Engineering Services to North Central Engineering Cluster for various water quality and other projects	July 2013 to June 2014	GS	82	\$42,928	

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices



FY2014 Annual Budget (7/1/13 – 6/30/14) Kittitas County Conservation District

Object	Budget	
Salaries & Wages	\$351,093	
Personnel Benefits	\$61,958	
Office & Operating Supplies	\$36,800	
Fuel Consumed	\$7,500	
Supplies Purchased for Resale	\$4,800	
Small Tools & Minor Equipment	\$2,000	
Repairs and Maintenance (Vehicles)	\$2,500	
Professional Services	\$219,100	
Communication	\$19,500	
Travel	\$3,500	
Advertising	\$2,000	
Insurance	\$8,500	
Miscellaneous	\$35,990	
Subtotal	\$755,241	
Cost Share	\$1,442,500	
Project Construction	\$2,680,000	
Subtotal	\$4,122,500	
TOTAL	\$4,877,741	

Grant Source	Total Grant Budget	Expected Income in FY 2014					
Direct Federal Funds							
Manastash In-stream Flow Enhancement (BPA)	\$895,370	\$357,025					
USFWS Partners Grant - Reed Ditch Diversion Removal	\$78,200	\$0					
USFWS Partners Grant - Abandoned Dam Removal	\$25,000	\$0					
Indirect Federal Funds							
Salmon Recovery Funding Board- Consolidated Pipeline (Manastash)	<i>\$599,408</i>	\$599,408					
Salmon Recovery Funding Board- 3M Ditch	\$328,500	\$125,000					
Salmon Recovery Funding Board- Red Bridge Road	\$243,877	\$230,000					
Salmon Recovery Funding Board- Coleman Creek/EWC Project	\$333,313	\$0					
Fuels Reduction Grant (via DNR)	\$180,000	\$132,000					
Save Water Save Energy (BPA via RC&D)	\$3,795	\$1,046					
Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (BPA via RC&D)	\$434,702	\$390,000					
State Funds							
WSCC Implementation Grants Category 1 and 2	\$70,000	\$25,000					
WSCC Category 3	\$100,000	\$60,625					
WSCC Irrigation Efficiencies	\$825,860	\$100,000					
WSCC Professional Engineering	\$70,000	\$825,860					
DNR Fuels Reduction Grant	\$90,000	\$70,000					
Ecology Manastash Pipelines Project	\$1,978,000	\$74,314					
Ecology Jack Creek Floodplain Project (Mid-Columbia)	\$250,000	\$1,608,963					
Ecology Upper Kittitas County Water Quality (CCWF)	\$112,958	\$90,000					
Mid-Col. Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group- Flood Fence Proj.	\$5,000	\$37,000					
Local Funds							
Kittitas County Road Funds- PAM Cost Share	\$5,000	\$3,000					
Kittitas County Special Assessment Funds	\$148,000	\$140,000					
Puget Sound Energy - Wild Horse Facility Conservation Easement	\$7,500	\$5,000					
TOTAL	\$6,797,608	\$4,877,741					